



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New  
England



# Crop Progress & Condition

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[www.nass.usda.gov/nh](http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh)  
Week ending May 8, 2016

Issued weekly on the internet, April - November  
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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**Good week for field work:** New England averaged 4.5 days suitable for field work last week.

New England received some much needed rain throughout many parts of the region this past week and temperatures overall remained cooler. Average weekly temperatures ranged from nine degrees below normal to four degree above normal in the region. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.19 to 2.40 inches. The wet weather slowed planting in some areas, pushing producers to work on other tasks such as manure spreading, tilling, disking, and preparing fields for planting. Orchardists applied protective fungicides and fertilized plantings. The pruning of fruit trees, blueberries, and raspberries also kept producers busy. In Massachusetts, the cooler conditions slowed cranberry bud development after an early break in dormancy. Some vegetable growers were able to harvest lettuce, spinach, kale, and rhubarb among other vegetables. Despite the rain, farmers' markets and garden centers remained busy over Mother's Day weekend.

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 8, 2016

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	0	26	63	11
SUBSOIL	0	22	73	5

## Crop Conditions as of May 8, 2016

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	7	32	22	38	1

## Crop Progress as of May 8, 2016

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: GREEN TIP	77
APPLES: PINK	47
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	62
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	30
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	84
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): PINK	29
CORN: PLANTED	10
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	20
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	72
PEACHES: PINK	28
PEARS: GREEN TIP	48
PEARS: PINK	23
PEARS: FULL BLOOM	9
SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE	35
STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP	38
STRAWBERRIES: PINK	15
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	22

**May 8, 2016 New England Weekly Weather Summary**

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2016					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Maine	Augusta_State_A	67	38	48	-4	1.14	4	3.86	-0.97	13	42	+3	226
	Bangor_Intl_Air	72	42	52	+2	1.04	5	3.62	-0.56	15	48	+18	230
	Bethel	70	33	48	-4	1.12	3	3.39	-1.38	13	41	+10	173
	Bridgton	69	36	47	-4	1.41	3	4.29	-0.65	12	34	+11	174
	Caribou_Municip	72	39	51	+4	0.29	2	3.44	-0.01	10	36	+24	146
	Dover-Foxcroft	68	34	48	0	1.16	6	3.66	-0.95	15	20	+12	145
	Durham	70	36	48	-3	1.25	4	4.01	-1.57	13	34	+11	210
	East_Surry	66	37	47	-4	2.17	7	5.46	+0.24	19	10	-11	148
	Eustis	66	28	45	0	0.71	3	3.00	-0.98	13	13	+13	96
	Frenchville	70	37	49	+3	0.19	2	1.79	-1.75	11	23	+20	109
	Harmony	69	35	49	-2	1.30	5	4.05	-0.62	13	27	+6	176
	Houlton	70	34	49	+2	0.98	6	3.76	+0.11	14	26	+14	149
	Livermore_Falls	69	34	48	-1	1.44	3	4.11	-0.98	11	29	+17	162
	Millinocket_Wtr	69	35	47	-2	0.89	3	3.65	-0.86	10	16	-2	118
	Moosehead	67	32	46	+2	0.62	4	2.79	-1.59	11	7	+7	105
	Portland_ME	61	40	47	-4	1.46	4	3.02	-2.27	14	38	+15	227
	Rangeley_2NW	68	32	44	-2	0.59	3	3.21	-0.76	15	9	+6	82
	Sanford	66	39	47	-6	1.17	4	3.03	-2.53	12	55	+7	232
	Topsfield_2	68	35	47	-3	1.64	5	4.62	+0.09	12	27	+14	151
	Turner	68	36	47	-6	1.40	4	4.80	-0.30	13	35	-12	188
	Wesley_2W	69	31	48	-1	1.65	4	3.55	-1.17	6	16	+4	155
	West_Rockport	63	39	46	-4	1.67	5	4.37	-1.54	14	18	+3	164
	Whiting	67	36	48	+1	2.02	4	4.77	-0.98	13	23	+15	189
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	72	35	48	-2	0.84	3	3.44	-0.66	13	32	+9	159
	Bradford_2	69	38	46	-8	1.15	4	2.90	-2.13	12	35	-23	173
	Colebrook	70	28	46	-3	0.63	4	3.43	-0.11	14	21	+5	101
	Concord	70	40	49	-4	1.07	5	2.72	-1.21	15	87	+37	302
	East_Milford	64	40	48	-6	0.71	6	2.55	-2.31	15	70	+8	288
	Epping	63	38	48	-6	1.05	6	3.60	-1.58	18	57	+6	256
	Errol_AP	70	31	46	0	0.68	3	3.97	+0.36	15	17	+14	113
	Greenville	62	39	47	-5	1.11	6	2.98	-1.71	15	50	+15	237
	Hancock	65	34	46	-6	0.97	5	3.01	-1.95	15	49	+10	211
	Jaffrey_Silver_	67	40	49	-3	0.72	5	2.93	-1.76	15	55	+20	254
	Jefferson	70	38	48	-4	0.72	3	3.52	-0.19	15	33	-4	161
	Keene_AG	68	41	49	-4	0.97	5	2.78	-1.49	14	56	+11	251
	Lakeport_2	72	41	49	-4	1.10	4	3.01	-1.36	13	64	+20	260
	Lebanon	74	40	50	-2	1.17	4	2.67	-1.08	14	83	+43	276
	North_Conway	72	28	48	-4	1.29	4	3.96	-1.19	13	53	+19	204
	Tamworth_4	69	36	47	-3	1.25	5	4.44	-0.91	16	35	+20	158
	Wolfeburro	69	41	49	-4	1.12	5	3.05	-1.32	15	52	+8	248
Vermont	Averill	69	30	44	-1	0.77	2	3.64	-0.47	11	12	+12	78
	Bennington_AP	70	42	51	+1	1.11	6	3.19	-1.54	17	88	+54	306
	Burlington_Intl	74	42	52	0	0.79	3	2.59	-1.10	16	70	+14	253
	Corinth	69	39	47	-4	1.05	3	3.41	+0.05	13	19	-18	143
	Johnson_2N	69	36	48	-2	0.82	3	4.15	+0.00	12	33	+10	152
	Marlboro_Raws	63	37	46	-4	1.43	7	4.91	+1.39	19	51	+30	220
	Montpelier_AP	71	36	48	-4	1.00	4	3.27	-0.09	15	46	+9	183
	Newport_AG	70	33	48	-5	0.29	2	2.81	-1.01	13	24	-29	135

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2016					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	72	39	48	-2	1.12	4	3.33	-1.43	12	39	+7	181
	Rutland_AG	67	40	50	-4	1.12	4	3.08	-0.59	16	43	-25	208
	Springfield_VT	70	39	49	-3	0.64	5	2.07	-2.93	14	65	+31	251
	South_Lincoln	65	36	47	-2	0.87	4	2.37	-2.96	11	26	+10	154
	Sutton	70	35	47	-1	0.91	3	4.64	+0.94	17	20	+5	139
	Walden	68	32	45	-4	0.83	4	4.31	+0.61	17	8	-7	90
	Woodstock	69	40	49	-3	1.11	4	3.43	-1.03	13	54	+19	219
Massachusetts	Amherst	65	41	49	-5	1.27	6	3.66	-1.22	15	78	+15	321
	Barre_Falls_Dam	63	39	47	-5	1.21	7	4.25	-0.67	19	48	+19	235
	Bedford_Hanscom	60	41	49	-6	0.91	6	3.72	-1.25	18	82	+10	323
	Beverly_Ag	58	29	46	-9	1.46	6	3.78	-1.36	15	41	-30	242
	Birch_Hill_Dam	64	40	47	-4	0.75	6	2.91	-1.77	17	46	+17	244
	Boston_Logan_In	53	43	48	-8	1.31	6	4.17	-0.29	17	76	-9	339
	Chatham_AP	59	43	48	-3	2.32	6	6.44	+1.53	17	34	+7	243
	Chicopee_Westov	65	41	50	-5	1.16	6	3.00	-1.88	16	103	+40	351
	Edgartown	57	44	49	-4	2.25	6	6.81	+1.62	18	42	-4	292
	East_Brimfield_	52	38	46	-8	1.48	7	5.00	-0.12	20	56	+9	263
	Fitchburg	63	41	50	-5	0.88	6	2.77	-2.62	15	100	+33	356
	Greenfield	67	38	49	-6	1.26	6	3.50	-1.38	18	66	+3	286
	Hyannis_AP	56	43	49	-4	2.40	6	6.63	+2.01	18	42	+7	265
	Maynard	63	39	49	-7	1.32	6	4.23	-0.74	16	77	+5	317
	New_Bedford	58	43	49	-6	2.02	6	5.41	+0.10	17	57	-12	298
	Newburyport	62	38	48	-6	1.19	6	3.74	-1.63	18	49	-13	250
	North_Adams_Har	67	41	50	-1	0.84	6	3.41	-2.15	18	83	+54	300
	Norwood	57	42	49	-6	0.86	7	3.02	-2.03	16	88	+5	337
	Pittsfield	62	38	48	-5	1.22	6	3.71	-1.42	17	65	+20	273
	Plymouth	56	43	48	-6	1.53	6	4.89	-0.69	18	53	-6	269
	Taunton_4NW	58	41	48	-7	1.48	6	5.45	+0.35	21	58	-11	305
	Westfield_Barne	63	41	50	-3	1.41	6	3.31	-2.08	16	110	+65	365
	West_Otis	61	40	49	-4	1.47	7	4.09	-1.67	20	64	+28	298
	Worcester	59	37	46	-8	1.42	6	4.21	-0.83	18	70	+19	289
	Worthington	62	37	45	-6	1.82	6	4.59	-0.65	19	47	+12	221
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	58	42	49	-4	1.39	7	4.85	-0.38	17	47	-5	297
	Providence	60	42	50	-6	1.10	7	5.01	-0.10	20	95	+3	368
	Westerly-Wester	64	43	51	-4	1.46	7	5.59	+0.36	19	63	-1	324
	Woonsocket	59	40	49	-6	1.31	6	6.14	+0.76	16	64	-7	316
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	56	43	51	-6	1.44	7	4.17	-0.85	19	114	+19	414
	Danbury_AP	57	41	50	-6	1.72	7	4.07	-1.40	19	105	+10	376
	Hartford_Bradle	63	41	50	-7	1.47	6	3.92	-1.07	17	117	+3	396
	Meriden-Meriden	63	43	51	-4	0.77	7	3.04	-2.83	18	116	+43	400
	Norfolk	57	36	45	-7	1.67	7	4.11	-1.65	15	47	+11	237
	Norwich	65	43	50	-6	1.42	7	5.32	-0.36	17	84	-15	354
	Staffordville	59	38	46	-8	1.45	7	5.51	+0.04	17	38	-21	242
	Thomaston_Dam	66	41	50	-4	1.36	7	4.20	-1.20	21	70	+13	318
	West_Thompson_L	57	39	48	-6	1.47	6	5.61	+0.18	15	51	-5	272
	Willimantic	63	42	51	-3	1.55	7	4.60	-0.87	18	119	+60	400

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.  
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
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## REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

*Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.*

### CONNECTICUT

ALL CT COUNTIES, Jude Boucher

A week of much needed rain, but only a couple of inches.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert

Rain is finally bringing the spring flush of grass, but lower than normal temperatures are still holding production back. Corn planting is on hold till fields dry, and on some farms till first cutting comes in.

NEW LONDON, Sarah Woodward

Cool temperatures and wet weather for most of the week. Apples approaching full bloom. Greenhouses and garden centers were busy for Mother's Day despite the weather.

### MAINE

AROOSTOOK (Central), Larry James

The rain last night should improve field conditions. A few early birds got on the ground last week. The struggle to market this year's crop is probably dampening spring enthusiasm.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Rainy week with just about no sun. Cool temps with highs in the 40s and low 50s all week. Grass is growing, but not much else is progressing. There is some concern on apple damage from the winter. Macs have damage on king buds.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

The leaves are starting to come out on apple trees here. Hay and pasture got a very good soaking. There is a lot of manure being spread right now. Field conditions are excellent.

PENOBSCOT/PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

Couple of rainy days helped the moisture levels. Some tillage has started. Manure spreading continues.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins

Received some rain last week. Manure spreading commenced.

### MASSACHUSETTS

ALL MA COUNTIES, Tom Smiarowski

Received very much needed rainfall. Below average temperatures did slow crop growth and progress during the week. Anticipated warmer temperatures should help push crop growth.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

After very dry conditions in the last half of April, this month started with a week of rain. Since conditions remained cool, this was a welcome relief as well from having to protect cranberries from frosty nights. Cool conditions have slowed bud development after an early break in dormancy.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Received much needed rain, but cool temps persist. Growers have been able to cultivate and lay plastic mulches in preparation for planting.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Still cold at night, at times below freezing temps. Fairly wet week overall, field prep continues with manure spreading and tillage. Meadows beginning to green up well, a few scattered dandelions in sight.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

The first week of May brought rain showers five days out of seven. We received about one inch of rainfall for the week. Topsoil moisture is adequate; however, soil temperatures generally were still too cool to plant crops. Some mornings are still below freezing, slowing the warming of the soil. River bottom fields are a little further along, and farmers are ready to plant corn. The grass is finally starting to grow. The rain that we got last week gave everything a needed boost.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Early blooming apple varieties at late pink to king bloom and later blooming apple varieties were at pink on May 8. No peach blossoms, February 14-15 freeze killed blossoms. Some plum flowers blooming along with sweet cherries. Blueberry is at early pink. Pruning peach trees, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Fertilizing orchards and other fruit plantings. Protective fungicide sprays were applied on fruit trees. Vegetables: Fields were being plowed, disked, fertilized, and limed. Laying plastic mulch and drip irrigation tape. Making successive planting vegetable crops including planting sweet corn. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields, spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, and starting to get ready to plant corn.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Apple at pink stage and buds about to open and bees waiting to start working. Monitoring and spraying protective fungicides in fruit orchards and small fruit patches. Some field work done in between rain showers. Laying plastic in vegetable fields. The week saw light rain to strong showers with cloudy days with the exception of Friday that saw sun and a high temperature (about 75 degree Fahrenheit). Harvesting lettuce, spinach, kale and rhubarb. Strawberry harvest may be on target for mid-June. Several open air farmers' markets opened. Garden centers were busy for Mother's Day weekend despite the light rain. Pastures are getting greener.

SULLIVAN, Jennifer Z. Gehly

It was a cool, wet week in Sullivan County. The rain was greatly needed as soils were on the dry side. Pastures, hay fields, and trees are finally greening up. On the few days that the skies cleared up, farmers were busy transplanting vegetables and prepping more fields. Now we just need some sunshine and warmer temperatures (which is in the forecast the week) to really get things moving.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

ALL RI COUNTIES, George Goulart

Another cold and damp week. Temperatures during the day ran in the forties to fifties, which is ten to twenty degrees below average. Farmers are about two weeks behind in planting. Expecting more normal temperatures this week.

## **VERMONT**

BENNINGTON/RUTLAND, Tina Williams

Bennington and Rutland counties received much needed rain the beginning of the week. Field preparation and some planting has begun.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Franklin County, Vermont has made some progress with growth this week. Buds are beginning to turn green and the lawn mowers have begun to come to life. Corn planting is in progress; however, cool temps are keeping most growers at bay. Soil conditions are good with tillage and manure mostly set. Pastures are doing great for early growth and need some moisture and heat to really get things going. Still not much activity in the gardens with cool temps keeping people inside.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

Farm activities this past week included spreading manure, spring tillage and the very start of planting corn. The soil temperature is still too low to plant in most places. The forecast for next week is more sun and higher temperatures than this past week, so we should start to see soil temperatures increase. Most farms have not started grazing yet, but with some sun, will probably be able to begin this week.